

Contract Signed for Rental Assistance Program for Ex-Offenders

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"I am proud of this Administration's new approach to confronting Indiana's homeless challenge. Helping non-violent ex-offenders find affordable housing keeps them from turning to the streets and will keep our communities safer."

Lt. Governor Skillman,

Chair, IHCD's Board of Directors and the Interagency Council on the Homeless

"We are very excited by this new partnership and launching the rental assistance program. Our agency is committed to developing the right partnerships to promote public safety in Indiana. By providing housing options, employment leads and basic services for ex-offenders returning to the community, we minimize the risk of re-offending."

J. David Donahue, Commissioner

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD) and the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) today announced the official launch of an innovative program designed to help ex-offenders find affordable housing. The Northwest Indiana Re-entry Partnership (NIRP) has signed a contract to administer the state's tenant based rental assistance (TBRA) program for ex-offenders in Northwest Indiana.

As part of the state's Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, IHCD partnered with IDOC to develop a program to reduce homelessness and the rate of repeat offenses among parolees. In July, IHCD selected two organizations to administer the pilot program in five Indiana counties.

The Northwest Indiana Reentry Partnership will be assisting individuals returning to Lake, LaPorte and

Porter counties. The PACE/Offender Aid and Restoration (PACE/OAR) will assist ex-offenders in Marion and Madison counties. NIRP will receive more than \$170,000 in funding, and PACE will receive approximately \$250,000 to help with the homelessness problem.

"I am proud of this Administration's new approach to confronting Indiana's homeless challenge," said Lt. Governor Skillman, who serves as chair of IHCD's Board of Directors and the Interagency Council on the Homeless. "Helping non-violent ex-offenders find affordable housing keeps them from turning to the streets and will keep our communities safer."

"We are very excited by this new partnership and launching the rental assistance program," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "Our agency is committed to developing the right partnerships to promote public safety in Indiana. By providing housing options, employment leads and basic services for ex-offenders returning to the community, we minimize the risk of re-offending."

In 2006, the State of Indiana will release approximately 16,000 adult offenders from Indiana's correctional facilities. Many of these individuals do not have stable housing planned for after their release. The TBRA Program addresses this often-overlooked segment of the homeless population, who often return to crime when no stable living environment is available.

Participants in the program are selected by IDOC staff based on established criteria. The assistance program offers assistance for the rental units and utility payments. In addition to providing housing, NIRP and PACE/OAR will also work with ex-offenders to address other needs that will allow them to successfully transition back into their communities.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCD) mission is for every Hoosier to have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCD believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information go to www.indianahousing.org

The Indiana Department of Correction employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

About The Department of Correction

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